The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Madam I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

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5 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to make an announcement that we were to have two statements by Ministers on railways and petroleum. But because of the important discussion we are going to take up on the situation in South Africa, the statements will be made tomorrow. The Prime Minister will intervene on the discussion on the racial riots in South Africa at 5-20 p.m. today.

The discussion will be initiated by you, Mr. Jaswant Singh, but before that the Minister will make a statement and in the light of his statement you might get some more talking points as they have done in Lok Sabha.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): I welcome the opportunity of speaking after the Minister's statement it will admirably suit my points. But I would take note of only one part of your remark and it is that just because Lok Sabha did it, we might do likewise. . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not what I meant. We are doing it on our own, not because Lok Sabha did it. The idea is the Minister's statement will give you a better opportunity.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON RACIAL RIOTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AFFECTING THE PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): Madam Deputy Chairman, the despicable system of Apartheid must be the starting point of any discussion of the South African situation. Apartheid was devised by the White minority to perpetuate its supermacy over other communities, who form 85 per cent of the population of South Africa. The United Nations has rightly described Apartheid as a crime against humanity. The rights and freedoms defined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights are denied to non-Whites. Colour discrimination extends not only to employment and habitation, but to public transport, public places like cinemas, museums, sports stadia, restaurants and parks and gardens. People of different races may not even be carried to hospital in the same ambulance. Political parties serving the interests of the oppressed majority, in particular, the African National Congress and also the Pan Africanist Congress, are banned and have to operate from exile.

Among the many reprehensible features of Apartheid is the creation of the so-called "homelands" or "Bantustans" for the Africans. Though they comprise 73 per cent of the total populaton, the Bantustans have been allocated only some 13.7 per cent of the total area of the country. These are among the poorest areas which contain no major known deposits of minerals, no major industries or sea ports. Millions of Blacks and coloureds are permitted to live and work in "White" areas but only so long as this source of cheap labour is required by the ruling minority. Africans might be thrown out at any time if they are considered surplus to the requirements of White employers or have become old or sick. These Black residents

[Shri Khurshid Alam Khan]

have no political rights and must carry Passes which have to be produced on demand. Every day thousands of persons are arrested for contravention of the Pass Laws.

Opposition to Apartheid in the International community as well as within South Africa is well known. There is however, a new surge within South Africa supported by workers in mining and other industries. People are coming out openly against the regime and are defying its laws designed to perpetuate its tyranny. White repression has increased in a futile attempt to put down the movement. In the last year or so, hundreds of people have been killed in police firings. Thousands have been imprisoned and scores have perished while in custody as a result of police brutalities. It is not possible to estimate how many are being held in prison without trial but the number is very large. The dauntless spirit of the anti-Apartheid movement is symbolised in the person of Nelson Mandela a winner of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, who has spent 23 years in the notorious Robben Island prison.

International opposition to Apartheid initiated by Gandhiji has also been gathering strength over the years. It was India which first brought the question of racial discrimination in South Africa before the United Nations in 1946. Since then a powerful international consensus has developed against the racist principles of the Apartheid system.

It is unfortunately a fact that there is yet no unanimity about the need for imposing economic sanctions against South Africa. Certain important Western powers with considerable investments in South Africa are not to apply economic sanctions against South Africa. The latest events in South have also demonstrated that the so-called policy of constructive engagement does not provide a viable alternative to effective action by the international community under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter.

In an attempt to confuse domestic and international opinion, the racist regime in South Africa has announced a series of cosmetic "reforms" which in no way reduce the rigours of Apartheid or confer real rights to the majority. Last year the racists introduced certain so-called "constitutional reforms" and created a tricameral legislature to give a semblance of representation to the Coloured and Indian communities. The new Parliament has 178 Whites, 85 Coloured and 45 Indians, each group supposedly empowered to discuss and legislate on matters pertaining to its own community. In fact, however, real power remains in the hands of the White minority. The majority of the population has no franchise. The attempt has proved to be a failure as is obvious from the fact that only a small minority of the Indian and coloured electrorates (about 28 per cent of the Indians and 30 per cent of the coloureds) participated in the elections, in August 1984. The vast majority boycotted the so-called elections, thereby rejecting the invitation of the racist regime to become junior partners in their own suppression.

The latest instance of the nefarious efforts of the racist regime to divide the oppressed masses concerns the recent disturbances in the township of Inanda, near Durban, earlier this month. Members will have seen reports about these disturbances, which were apparently triggered off by the murder of a black human rights lawyer, Mrs. Victoria Mxenge, People attending the memorial service for Mrs. Mxenge were attacked by some hooligans. In the ensuing disturbances, some 65 people, including a few people of Indian origin, are reported to have lost their lives. The turbulance also spilled over to the nearby Phoenix Settlement set up by Mahatma Gandhi in the 1890s and some buildings asso-

ciated with Gandhiji were destroyed. The racist regime showed no determination to intervene and restores peace and order. Its police did nothing to protect the lives and properties of people, including those of Indian origin, when they were attacked by anti-social elements. There is ample reason to suspect the hand of the South African Government and their hired agents in the disturbances. I would like to inform the House that this perception is shared by the ANC and leaders of other African States.

We are confident that the people of South Africa will see through the transparent attempts of the racist regime to create artificial divisions in their ranks. The racists' manoeuvres cannot stop the march of history. The oppressed people of South Africa will carry their united struggle to a successful conclusion.

I would like to assure the House that India will spare no efforts in mobilising world public opinion in support of the South African people's just struggle for a better, more equitable and humane order under conditions of full freedom.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Madam Deputy-Chairman, it is not as if we have at any stage doubted that the Government of India has any other stand but of total rejection of Apartheid. It is not as if anyone in this country doubts about the total revulsion with which every human treat this slur upon humanity. My objection to the hon. Minister's statement is not on account of what is contained in the statement, that the intervention of the Government of India, etc. My objection is a bit more substantial than that. I would have hoped that instead of repeating what was said in the Lok Sabha the hon. Member would come forth not with an essay on Apartheid, not with a description of what the South African Parliament comprises of or what is

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO PRIME MINISTER

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, may I just take a minute of Mr. Jaswant Singh's time to express our warmest Birthday Greetings to our hon. Prime Minister? We wish him a very, very useful in public life in the service of the nation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We wish him many many, happy returns of the day. (*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): May I thank all the hon. Members? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the whole House and the Chair, I also wish him happy returns of the day and a long, happy and useful life in the service of the nation.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Thank you.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON RACIAL RIOTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AFFECTING THE PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN—contd.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would also like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed.

Madam, I would like to reiterate what I said when I started by saying that we would rather have hoped that the Minister would come out not with an essay on Apartheid or what the political structure of the Parliament, so called Parliament, of that racist regime is, but really a succinct, hard-hitting account of what we are going to do, not as a vague declaration of good intents but as a positive stand, the steps that we intend taking, either initiated by the Government of India or encouraged or en-